

XVIII.—*Notice of a Japanese Pheasant.*

By JOHN GOULD, Esq., F.R.S. &c.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,

Like other little-explored countries, the distant island of Japan now and then affords the ornithologist an opportunity of describing a new species pertaining to his favourite science; and that it will continue to do so for some time to come is, I think, more than probable. With this brief remark I beg to record in your 'Annals' a short notice of a bird which I think may hereafter be regarded as an additional species of the family Phasianidæ.

In affinity it is very closely related to the *P. Sæmmeringii* (*Graphophasianus Sæmmeringii* of Reichenbach and Bonaparte: see the latter's "Tableaux paralléliques de l'Ordre des Gallinacés," in the 'Comptes rendus de l'Académie des Sciences' for 1856), is of the same size and form, but is far more beautiful than any of the examples of that species I have seen. The differences, which are very striking, consist in the feathers of the back, rump, and upper tail-coverts being broadly margined with white, while the brilliant crimson which occupies the centre of the tip is far more fiery; in the flank feathers and greater wing-coverts being bordered with greyish white, in the ground-colour of the tail being cinnamon-brown, and the narrow bars, which are deep buff in *P. Sæmmeringii*, being greyish white and communicating a very marked appearance to the tail when spread. Some specimens are of the same size as *P. Sæmmeringii*, while others are rather smaller. That the peculiar features I have pointed out are not due to age, there can be no doubt; for I have examples of both birds which have long spurs—an evidence of their being mature.

If this bird should prove to be a new species, I would propose for it the name of *Phasianus* (*Graphophasianus*) *scintillans*; if it should not, a notice of its remarkable differential features is worthy of record in the 'Annals.'

I beg to remain,

Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN GOULD.

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